

SWISS BRIDGE AWARD

SWISS  BRIDGE
INVEST IN CANCER RESEARCH WORLDWIDE

Erfolgreiche Förderung
der internationalen Krebsforschung

Successful promotion
of international cancer research



25 Years
**SWISS
BRIDGE
AWARD**
2000-2025



25
YEARS 



Alle Gewinner SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2000-2024

All winners SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2000-2024

Belgien/Belgium

2010 - Anna Sablina, KU Leuven, 2016 - Jan Cools, VIB Center for The Biology of Disease, Leuven, 2016 - Peter Van Vlierberghe, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent.

Deutschland/Germany

2013 - Heide Götze, University of Leipzig, 2015 - Andreas Trumpp, Stem Cell and Cancer Center, Heidelberg, 2019 - Lukas Bunse, University Hospital Mannheim, 2020 - David T. W. Jones, Hopp Children's Cancer Center Heidelberg, 2024 - Juliane Walz, University Hospital Tübingen.

England/United Kingdom

2001 - Steven C. West, Cancer Research UK, London, 2008 - Thomas Helleday, Radiation Oncology and Biology, University of Oxford, 2009 - Seven C. West, Cancer Research UK, London.

Frankreich/France

2000 - Edgar Goldgar, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, 2001 - Silvia Franceschi, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, 2006 - Zdenko Herceg, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, 2014 - Laurence Zitvogel, Gustave Roussy Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Villejuif.

Israel

2010 - Ronit Satchi-Fainaro, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv, 2011 - Shai Izraeli, Sheba Medical Center, Ramat Gan, 2017 - Yaron Cami, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv.

Italien/Italy

2001 - Pier Paolo Di Fiore, European Institute of Oncology, Milano, 2005 - Stefano Piccolo, University of Padua, 2007 - Giuseppe Pelicci, Istituto Europeo di Oncologica, Milano, 2007 - Matteo Cesari, Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Roma, 2008 - Anna Maria Teti, University of L'Aquila, 2013 - Lisa Licitra, Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milano.

Norwegen/Norway

2004 - Anne-Lise Borresen-Dale, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo.

Österreich/Austria

2023 - Anna Christina Obenauf, Institute of Molecular Pathology, Vienna.

Schweden/Sweden

2004 - Rune Toftgard, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, 2022 - Sylvain Peuket, Karolinska Institutet Stockholm.

Schweiz/Switzerland

2002 - Giulio Spagnoli, University of Basle, 2002 - Francesco Bertoni, Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland, Bellinzona, 2002 - Markus G. Manz, Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Bellinzona, 2003 - Gerhard Christofori, University of Basle, 2003 - Josef Jiricny, Institute of Molecular Cancer Research, University of Zurich, 2004 - Brian Hemmings, Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basle, 2006 - Matthias Egger, University of Berne, 2007 - Ariel Ruiz, University of Geneva, 2008 - Dario Neri, ETH Zurich, 2009 - Matthias Egger, University of Berne, 2009 - Wilhelm Krek, ETH Zurich, 2010 - Andrea Alimonti, Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland, Bellinzona, 2011 - Jürg Schwaller, University Hospital, Basle, 2011 - Monika Hegi, University Hospital, Lausanne, 2013 - Christine Bouchardy, University of Geneva, 2013 - Sibil Tschudin, University Hospital Basle, 2014 - Adrian Ochsenbein, University of Berne, 2015 - Joerg Huelsken, EPFL Lausanne, 2016 - Christian Mosimann, University of Zurich, 2016 - Sara Meyer, University Hospital Basle, 2017 - Johanna Joyce, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Lausanne, 2018 - Ping-Chih Ho, Ludwig Cancer Research, Lausanne, 2019 - Denis Migliorini, Geneva University Hospital, Geneva, 2020 - Ana S. Guerreiro Stücklin, University Children's Hospital Zurich, 2022 - Michal Bassani-Sternberg, University Hospital of Lausanne, 2023 - Lukas Flatz, Cantonal Hospital of St. Gallen, 2024 - Tobias Weiss, University Hospital Zurich.

Spanien/Spain

2000 - Maria Blasco, Spanish National Cancer Centre, Madrid, 2005 - Oscar Fernandez-Capetillo, Spanish National Cancer Centre, Madrid, 2006 - Manuel Esteller, Spanish National Cancer Centre, Madrid, 2018 - Rodrigo de Almeida Toledo, d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona.



CHF 500'000 für die besten europäischen Krebsforschungsprojekte

Die Geschichte des SWISS BRIDGE AWARD

SWISS BRIDGE wurde 1997 durch Thomas Hoepli gegründet und konnte seitdem weit über 50 Mio. Franken für die Krebsforschung sammeln und in innovative und qualitativ hochstehende Forschungsprojekte investieren. Zusätzlich wird jährlich der **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** mit mindestens CHF 500'000 für hervorragende Forschungsprojekte verliehen. Es ist einer der weltweit namhaftesten Preise für zukunftsweisende Krebsforschung und genießt daher einen hohen nationalen und internationalen Bekanntheitsgrad.

Der erste **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** wurde im Jahr 2000 ausgeschrieben. Seither haben ca. 1'500 Forscher ihre Projektideen unserer internationalen Jury unterbreitet, wovon ca. 200 in die engere Auswahl gelangten, aus denen schliesslich 50 Preisträger erkoren wurden.

CHF 500'000 for the best european cancer research projects

The History of the SWISS BRIDGE AWARD

SWISS BRIDGE was founded in 1997 by Thomas Hoepli and since then has collected and invested more than 50 million Swiss francs in innovative and exceptional cancer research projects. Furthermore, the annual **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** amounting to at least CHF 500'000 is bestowed on outstanding research projects. It is one of the most renowned prizes in the world for pioneering cancer research and is therefore widely known both nationally and internationally.

The first **SWISS BRIDGE AWARD** was announced in the year 2000. Since then approximately 1,500 researchers have submitted their project ideas to our international jury, of which approximately 200 were included on the short list, from which 50 winners of the Award were selected.



Appraisal of the President of the Board of the Foundation

The development of the SWISS BRIDGE Foundation and, of course, of this wonderful Award over the last 25 years has been remarkable.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our donors for their tremendous financial support. Your donations allow us to support many new research projects and thus to enhance the quality of life of those suffering from cancer and to further reduce the number of cancer patients.

Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg



Appraisal of the Chairman of the Scientific Jury

SWISS BRIDGE meets an important need by providing financial support for promising projects that are still in their early stages, and frequently assists young cancer scientists and doctors in advancing their careers.

We profile some of the many success stories here, assisted by your donations to SWISS BRIDGE, but many more remain untold. SWISS BRIDGE was one of the first charities to see the potential of immuno-oncology a decade ahead of the larger European funders.

Prof. Dr. Adrian Ochsenbein



Appreciation of the CEO of the Foundation

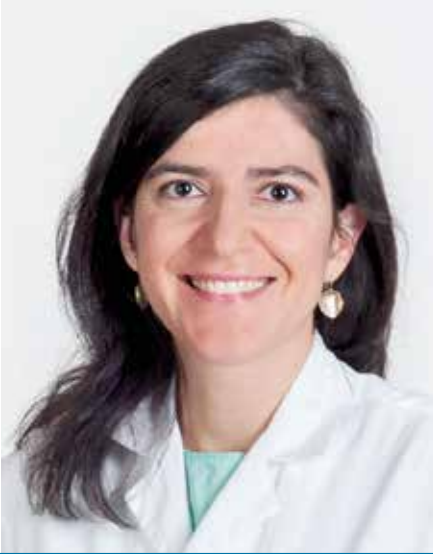
Naturally, I am extremely proud to hold the important position of CEO at SWISS BRIDGE. I would like to express my gratitude to all friends of the Foundation, who are highly committed and engaged in voluntary work for its various committees.

This enables us to further develop SWISS BRIDGE in the near future and to be successful in the battle against cancer.

Philipp Lücke



Award Winner 2020



2020

**Ana S. Guerreiro Stücklin,
MD PhD**

**Department of Oncology and Children's
Research Center, University Children's Hospital Zurich**

**Project title:
Targeting the kinome in oncofusion-driven
pediatric gliomas**

Background

Brain tumors account for the majority of morbidity and mortality in pediatric cancer patients. While studying congenital brain tumors, we recently described a distinct group of pediatric gliomas harboring key targetable rearrangements in a cluster of highly homologous receptor tyrosine kinases (RTK). The role of these ALK/ROS1/NTRK/MET oncofusions in gliomagenesis remains largely unknown but their detection has immediate clinical implications. While eagerly anticipating encouraging responses to targeted agents, concerns for development of drug resistance under selective therapeutic pressure are mounting. Further advances in patient care will rely on studies that decipher the mechanisms driving tumor formation and response / resistance of RTK-rearranged gliomas to targeted therapies.

Overall goal and specific aim

The overall goal of this project is to deliver detailed molecular insights into a group of pediatric brain tumors to inform the next generation of clinical trials. We aim to: (1) investigate the mechanisms underlying glial transformation by RTK oncofusions; (2) understand the kinome-wide impact of targeted therapies; and (3) harness combination treatments to enhance antitumor activity and prevent drug resistance in RTK-rearranged gliomas.

SWISS BRIDGE is proud to present you the latest results of this project:





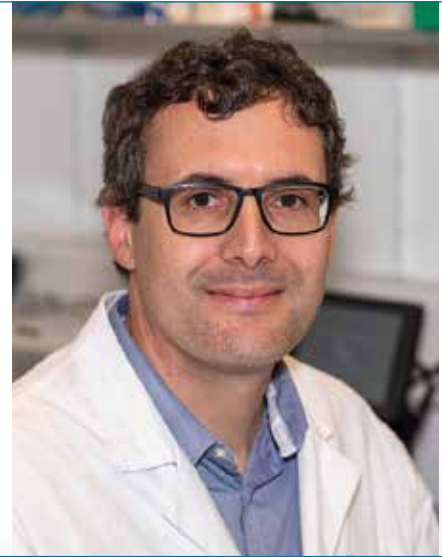
Award Winner 2023

2023

**Lukas Flatz,
MD**

**Institute of Immunobiology
Kantonsspital St. Gallen,
St. Gallen, Switzerland**

**Project title:
Discover markers of resistance in skin cancer**



Background

Lukas Flatz and his research group study skin cancers such as squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. For these cancers, too, a new form of therapy known as immune checkpoint inhibitors has revolutionized treatment in recent years. But here, too, the development of resistance poses a major challenge in treatment. Lukas Flatz and his team have found evidence that a process called tumor differentiation may be responsible for this resistance.

In this process, cancer cells lose their specialized properties and become more primitive. This can lead to them being less well recognized and fought by the body's immune defenses and allowing them to spread to other parts of the body. „We believe that the de-differentiation of cancer cells is caused by a process called immune editing, in which the immune system puts pressure on the tumors and changes their properties,“ says Lukas Flatz.

In the project, he and his team want to discover markers for de-differentiation in melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma. This could significantly improve the diagnosis of these cancers and open up new treatment options.

SWISS BRIDGE is proud to present you the latest results of this project:





**Novel targets
in precision oncology**

SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2025



SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2025

SWISS BRIDGE is a private foundation with the purpose to seek support for cancer research. Since 2000, the Swiss Bridge Award has been granted to support high-quality cancer research projects in Europe. This year on the occasion of the 25th Swiss Bridge Award, young investigators¹ with projects focusing on **„novel targets in precision oncology“** are eligible for application.

Investigators from academic and cancer research institutions in Europe are invited to submit a note of intent for a new cancer research project on or before 30 April 2025.

The proposals will be evaluated by an international scientific jury. 6 – 8 investigators will be shortlisted and invited to submit a detailed research application by mid-June 2025. Upon peer review and recommendation from the scientific jury, up to 3 projects will receive funding amounting to a total support of 500'000 Swiss francs.

The winners will be invited to an award ceremony to be held in Zurich, 28th October 2025.

The entire note of intent including attachments may not exceed 6 pages (3 000 words) and must include:

- the title of the project
- the name, address and affiliation of the principal investigator
- the domain of research (basic, clinical, translational, other – please specify)
- the principal investigator's short curriculum vitae
- a list of up to 10 publications by the principal investigator (please provide the following information: h-index, total number of publications and total sum of citations)
- the name(s), address(es) and affiliation(s) of potential co-applicant(s) (CVs are not required)
- the project period (max. 3 years)
- the amount of financial support requested (max. 300'000 Swiss francs)
Please note: The award does not cover any indirect, infrastructure or overhead costs, which must be met by the research institution.
- a summary of the project and
- a statement regarding the relevance and potential contribution of the project to cancer control

¹ Please note that the term young investigator refers to early stage researchers under the age of 45 holding a PhD or MD and having obtained an independent position at a hospital, university, or research institute in Europe (e.g. junior group leaders, assistant professors, lecturers, scientists establishing their own research group).



UNSEREN SPENDERN EINE STIMME GEBEN

Drei Formen von Spenden:

Designierte Spenden

Donatoren können, unter Vorbehalt der Zustimmung der wissenschaftlichen Jury, die Verwendung ihrer Spende für ein ausgewähltes Forschungsprojekt und/oder ein bevorzugtes Forschungsinstitut irgendwo auf der Welt bestimmen. Solche Beiträge werden ohne Abzug von Spesen an das designierte und bewilligte Institut überwiesen.

Nicht designierte Spenden

Donatoren können die Verwendung ihrer Spende der wissenschaftlichen Jury der Stiftung anvertrauen. Solche Spenden werden hauptsächlich für die Finanzierung des jährlichen SWISS BRIDGE AWARD, oder für bewilligte aber nicht voll finanzierte Forschungsprojekte verwendet.

Supporter und Freunde der Stiftung

Diese Donatoren unterstützen die Stiftung mit Spenden zur freien Verfügung. Solche Beiträge fließen in den internen Fonds „Supporter und Freunde der Stiftung“. Der Stiftungsrat beschliesst jährlich die Verwendung dieser Mittel für bereits bewilligte, noch nicht voll finanzierte Forschungsprojekte oder für die Verwaltung der Stiftung.

Steuer-Status

SWISS BRIDGE ist eine wegen Gemeinnützigkeit steuerbefreite schweizerische Stiftung. Spenden können demzufolge gemäss dem Steuerrecht des Bundes und der Kantone soweit rechtlich zulässig, in der Steuerklärung in Abzug gebracht werden.

Wenn Sie jemanden kennen, der Spender oder Supporter und Freund der Stiftung SWISS BRIDGE werden möchte, bitten wir Sie, uns zu kontaktieren.

A VOICE TO OUR DONORS

Three kinds of donations:

Designated Donations

Donors may wish that the utilisation of their donations are for specific cancer research projects and/or for a preferred cancer research institute anywhere in the world, subject to the approval of the Scientific Jury. Such contributions will be transferred to the designated and approved Institutes without deduction of expenses.

Non-designated Donations

Donors may entrust the utilisation of their contributions to the Scientific Jury of the Foundation. Such donations will be primarily used for the financing of the annual SWISS BRIDGE AWARD, or for cancer research projects approved but not fully financed.

Supporter and Friends of the Foundation

These donors support the Foundation with contributions for discretionary use. Such donations are assigned to the internal fund „Supporters and Friends of the Foundation“. The Board of Foundation decides annually the utilisation of these funds, partly for approved but not fully financed research projects or for the administration of the Foundation.

Tax Status

SWISS BRIDGE is a tax-exempt charitable foundation based in Switzerland. Donations may therefore be deducted from taxes in Switzerland to the legally permissible extent in accordance with the tax laws of the Swiss federal and cantonal governments.

If you know anyone, who may want to become a donor or a supporter and friend of the foundation SWISS BRIDGE, please contact us.

25
YEARS





Novel targets in precision oncology

Award ceremony in Zurich,
28th October 2025, Haus zum Rüden



SWISS BRIDGE AWARD 2025



ORGANIZATION

Board of Foundation

Prof. Dr. Jakob Passweg
(Chairman)
Eleonore E. Droux, Herrliberg
Dr. Thomas Peter, Küsnacht
Yves Monnard, St. Gallen
Liv Bahner, Zurich

Scientific Jury

Prof. Dr. Adrian Ochsenbein
(Chairman)

Honory Chairman

Prof. Dr. Giorgio Nosedà

Management

Philipp Lücke (CEO)

Board of Patrons

Dr. med. Jaques Bernier, Geneva
Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Urs Metzger, Zurich
Sir Paul Nurse, London
Heinz Roth, Uitikon/ Waldegg
Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Szucs, Zollikon

Administration

SWISS BRIDGE Foundation
P.O. Box 1556, 8027 Zurich
Phone + 41 (0) 43 31 71 360
info@swissbridge.ch

Donations:

Credit Suisse · 8070 Zurich · IBAN: CH52 0483 5095 7385 1100